NATION

India, US carry out wargame in Indian Ocean

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

SBI raises lending rates by 5 to 10 basic points

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Satwik-Chirag get easy draw for Paris

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 16 JULY 2024 | TUESDAY | BENGALURU | 9 MUHARRAM, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 174 | Pages: 8

WE ARE HIRING

REPORTERS
WEB-EDITOR
DESIGNER

Journalism degree preferred but not essential.

Reporter: 4-6 years experience.

Designer and web-editor: 2-4 years experience.

SEND YOUR CV TO:

hr.salarnews@gmail.com
anushreeirwin@gmail.com

Sensex, Nifty close at record levels

Sensex climbs 0.18% to settle at 80,664.86

State Bank of India, NTPC, UltraTech Cement are the gainers ***PHOTO: PTI***

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed at new record high levels on Monday helped by fresh foreign fund inflows and buying in State Bank of India.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new record high of 80,664.86. During the day, it advanced 343.2 points or 0.42 per cent to hit a high of 80,862.54.

The NSE Nifty rallied 84.55 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,586.70. During the day, it surged 132.9 points or 0.54 per cent to hit a new record peak of 24,635.05.

Among Sensex shares, State Bank of India, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Maruti and ITC were the biggest winners.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Shanghai settled higher while Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading lower.

US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,021.60 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. *—PTI*

WPI inflation rises to 3.36%

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Wholesale inflation in the country surged to a 16-month high of 3.36 per cent in June on account of rise in prices of food articles, especially vegetables This was the fourth consecutive month when inflation saw an upward journey. *—PTI*

Rupee closes at all-time low

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

Rupee depreciated 11 paise and settled for the day at an all-time low of 83.62 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by the overall strength of the American currency in overseas market. *—PTI*

180 PAGE REPORT RELEASED

BJP: Valmiki Corp funds siphoned off to 18 firms

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other leaders at the Monsoon Session at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

On the first day of 16th Karnataka Legislative Assembly's monsoon session, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka named 18 companies to where the proceeds from the scam at State-run Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation were allegedly transferred.

The companies named are Happiest Minds Technologies Ltd, YM Enterprises, Mannu Enterprises, Accord Business Services, M Tech Software India Pvt Ltd, Nitya Security Services, Volta Technology Services, V6 Business Solutions, System and Service Company, Ram Enterprises, Skillmap Training and Services Private Limited, Swap Design, GN Industries, Novel Security Services, Pimus Management Private Limited and Zeliant Training & Consulting Services, Sujal Enterprises and Grab A Grub Services Pvt Ltd. Most of the named companies have denied their involvement saying the accounts mentioned by probe agencies don't belong to them. Ashoka produced 180 pages of documents. He demanded a response from the ruling party and compensation for SC/ST people whose funds were looted.

Ashoka said, "The documents I submitted contain all the details involved in the scam, highlighting the 'sweep in strip out' account transaction that shows the embezzlement." Happiest Minds Technologies Ltd, which deals with Product & Digital Engineering Services and AI, allegedly got Rs 4.53 crore, while Ram Enterprises, which provides logistics services, got Rs 5.07 crore. Accord Business Services, which offers housekeeping and facility management services, got Rs 5.46 crore; YM Enterprises, which is into mild steel, got Rs 5.46 crore, Swap Design, which is in electric battery swiping business, got 5.46 crore, cybersecurity company MTech Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd got Rs 5.10 crore, Volta Technology Solutions, which provides support services to systems, got Rs 5.12 crore, GN Industries, which offers automotive battery plates, got Rs 5.01 crore and mutual fund company Novel Security Services Pvt Ltd, got Rs 4.56 crore. All the companies are based of Bengaluru. *—Salar News*

>>>More on Page 2

SURESH BABU IS NEW JD(S) LEADER

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

Senior JD(S) MLA CB Suresh Babu is the party's leader in the Karnataka Assembly, Speaker UT Khader said on Monday.

The position fell vacant following JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy's election to the Lok Sabaha.

"JD(S) state President HD Kumaraswamy on 14 July has given a letter stating that Chikkanayakanahalli MLA CB Suresh Babu has been appointed as the JD(S) party leader (in the Assembly) and the same has to be recognised. Accordingly, Suresh Babu has been recognised as the JD(S) party leader," Khader told the House.

Kumaraswamy resigned as the MLA from Channapatna segment after his election to the Lok Sabha in the recent polls. *—PTI*

Vikram Misri takes over as India's new foreign secretary

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, widely regarded as an expert on China and national security, assumed charge as India's new foreign secretary on Monday.

Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer who was serving as the deputy national security advisor, succeeded Vinay Kwatra.

59-year-old assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various geo-political challenges, including its frosty ties with China following the lingering eastern Ladakh border row. He has the rare distinction of serving as private secretary to three prime ministers -- Inder Kumar Gujral, Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Haryana moves SC for removing Shambhu barriers

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Haryana government has moved the Supreme Court challenging the High Court order asking it to remove within a week the barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala where farmers have been camping since 13 February. The state government's appeal, filed through advocate Akshay Amritanshu, has cited law and order situation for the blockade. On 12 July, while hearing a related matter, the top had court asked the Haryana government to remove the barricades and questioned its authority to block the highway. *—PTI*

Pakistan bans Imran Khan's PTI party

ISLAMABAD, 15 JULY

In a controversial move, the Pakistan government on Monday announced that it will ban jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for its alleged involvement in anti-state activities and slap cases against him and two of his senior party colleagues for treason. "In view of the foreign funding case, 9 May riots, and the cipher episode as well as the resolution passed in the US, we believe that there is very evidence present to have Khan's party, PTIbanned," Information Minister Attaullah Tarar made the announcement. Khan has been lodged at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on account of multiple cases since his ouster as prime minister in April 2022. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

SC refuses to cancel CBI case against DKS

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's plea seeking to quash the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) disproportionate assets case against him under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed by deputy chief minister against the order of the Karnataka High Court, which had earlier rejected his plea.

The CBI moved the Karnataka High Court after the state government dropped the CBI case against Shivakumar. The High Court was hearing the plea filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal challenging the state government's withdrawal of consent for the CBI probe.

The Supreme Court had earlier refused to interfere with the Karnataka High Court interim order staying proceedings against Congress leader Shivakumar in a disproportionate assets case. This decision triggered a massive political fight in the state between the BJP and the Congress with the former criticising the state cabinet's decision as "totally illegal".

In 2017, the Income Tax Department raided DK Shivakumar, leading to an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate. The BJP on Monday said the Supreme Court's dismissal of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's plea challenging a CBI FIR against him in a corruption case was a big setback to the Congress. Reacting to the top court's decision, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "A big setback for the corrupt Congress. INC means I need corruption, not Indian national Congress." *—PTI/ANI*

RED ALERT CONTINUES IN KARNATAKA

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

Jagalbet in Coastal Karnataka received the highest rainfall of 250 mm in India in the last 24 hours, said an advisory from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on 15 July.

With heavy and incessant rains continuing to lash several parts of Karnataka, IMD has reiterated its red alert for south interior and coastal parts of the state on 16 July.

Meanwhile, heavy rain had brought many places to a standstill, especially in Uttara Kannada and Kodagu on 15 July. In Karwar taluk of Uttara Kannada district, four-lane national highway work and the barricade at Kadamba naval base have resulted in the flooding of the surrounding villages.Villages here including Araga, Chendia, Iduru and Toduru have been submerged. About 10 hectares of agricultural land were also inundated causing damages to standing crops. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

Bhojshala sits on ruins of temples, says ASI report

BHOPAL, 15 JULY

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has submitted a report to the Madhya Pradesh High Court, revealing that the Bhojshala complex was constructed using parts from earlier temples. This submission was made following the High Court's directive in March to conduct a survey at the Bhojshala Temple cum Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district.

The Supreme Court in May, refused to stay the survey but stated that the report's findings cannot be acted upon at this stage.

The ASI's report, filed in response to a writ petition seeking to reclaim the Bhojshala complex for Hindus and to prohibit Muslims from offering namaaz within its premises, highlighted the art and architecture of the decorated pillars and pilasters hence suggesting that they were part of earlier temples. It also pointed out that due to the prohibition of human and animal figures in mosques, many images have been chiselled out or defaced. *—Salar News with Agencies*

'228KG GOLD MISSING FROM KEDARNATH'

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, Swami Avimukteshwaranand alleged that 228 kg of gold was missing from Kedarnath.

He said, "There is a gold scam in Kedarnath, why is that issue not raised? After doing a scam there, now Kedarnath will be built in Delhi? And then there will be another scam. 228 kg of gold is missing from Kedarnath... No inquiry has started"? *—ANI*

BARCELONA, 15 JULY

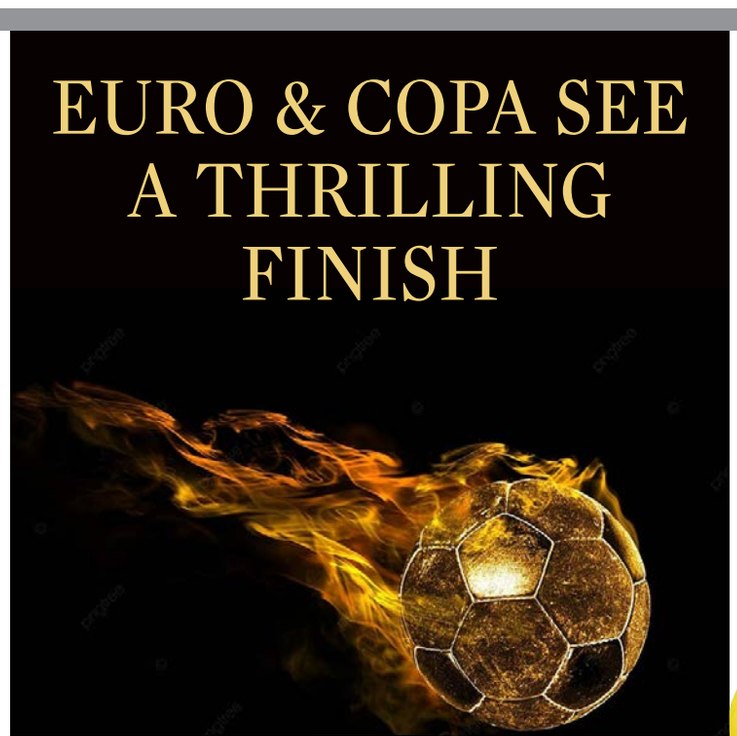
While nowhere close to England's anguishing title drought since the 1966 World Cup, Spain had entered a period of underachieving since its success at Euro 2012. Its attempts to maintain the "tiki-taka" ball-possession playing style failed.

Without Iniesta and company, Spain fell into the doldrums of making sometimes over 1,000 passes but scant few scoring chances in the biggest games.

In Germany, however, Spain deployed some new weapons that left defenses scrambling to cover attacks from all angles.

The imprint of those great Spain teams was still there to be seen, of course. Rodri and fellow midfielder Fabián Ruíz could latch onto the ball when required.

Yamal put on a show each game from the right side. The Barcelona forward, who turned 17 a day before the final, scored an instant classic of a goal to help beat France 2-1 in the semifinals, and he delivered his fourth assist of the tournament to set up Williams' goal against England. *—AP*



MIAMI GARDENS, 15 JULY

Argentina defeated Colombia 1-0 in the Copa America final in a match that was delayed more than an hour because of crowd issues, including fans breaching security gates. Hours before Argentina won its record 16th Copa America title on Sunday evening, fans got past the gates at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, one of the host sites for the 2026 World Cup. Video posted on social media showed fans, mostly wearing Colombia's yellow and red colors, jumping over security railings near the southwest entrance of the stadium and running past police officers and stadium attendants. Screams could be heard in the background. A handful of people could be seen receiving medical treatment and asking for water in the sweltering South Florida heat. Officers were able to push the crowd behind the gates and lock down the entrance so that no one could get inside, although plenty of fans with tickets had already made it to their seats before then. *—AP*

PHOTO: PTI

Make-in-India: MoS lauds HAL's contribution

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Monday said that public sector aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has a huge role to play in achieving the 'Make in India dream' in Defence, as he called upon the company to contribute towards achieving 'Viksit Bharat'. Seth visited the HAL facilities here and while addressing HAL's top management, he assured the company of government support. He called upon the Bengaluru-headquartered company to ensure that the various challenges in design and development as well as production and delivery are addressed in time to contribute to achieving Viksit Bharat as envisaged by the government. *—PTI*

'Non-release' of Cauvery water: TN CM slams K'taka

CHENNAI, 15 JULY

Karnataka government's stand on releasing a decreased quantum of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu is strongly condemnable, Chief Minister MK Stalin said on Monday announced that a meeting of legislative party leaders on 16 July has been convened here to decide on the next course of action in the inter-state river dispute. As on 15 July, 2024, while the total storage in the four main dams of Karnataka was 75.586 TMC ft, the water level in Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir is a mere 13.808 TMC ft, he said in a statement here. The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) has directed release of one TMC ft everyday from 12 July, 2024 to 31 July, 2024 after taking into consideration the present Southwest monsoon and inflows into dams in Karnataka. *—PTI*

SC extends Kannada news channel ban stay

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Supreme Court on Monday extended the stay till 22 July on the Karnataka High Court order that stopped the broadcast of Kannada news channel 'Power TV' over televising alleged sexual scandals involving some senior JD(S) politicians. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, appearing for the Centre, that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was abroad and adjourned the hearing until 22 July. The bench said, meanwhile, its earlier order of 12 July granting stay on the Karnataka High Court's decision will remain in force. Earlier, the bench observed that the case against the channel seemed to be driven by "sheer political vendetta". While staying High Court order, bench said the case against news channel was prima facie aimed at stopping it from airing allegations of sex scandals involving political figures. *—PTI*

Ruckus in both houses over Valmiki scam

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka says this scam has exposed 'anti-Dalit' face of the government

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

- As BJP MLC CT Ravi tried to make preliminary submission on the issue for which they had given an adjournment notice, the ruling Congress objected to it, leading to heated exchanges between treasury and Opposition benches

The opposition BJP on Monday tore into the ruling Congress over the Rs 187 crore scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation.

Launching a blistering attack on the government, Leader of Opposition in the assembly, R Ashoka said through this scam, which took the life of a sincere and honest government officer Chandrasekharan P, has exposed the 'anti-Dalit' face of the government, which calls itself a champion for the cause of Dalits.

"There used to be scams of two per cent, three per cent and 10 per cent but the Valmiki Corporation scam beats all. This is the '100 per cent Khata-Khat' scam," Ashoka said during the adjournment motion in the House on the irregularity.

Noisy scenes were also witnessed in the Legislative Council over the issue.

As BJP MLC CT Ravi tried to make preliminary submission on the issue for which they had given an adjournment notice, the ruling Congress objected to it, leading to heated exchanges between treasury and Opposition benches.

Home Minister G Parameshwara citing rules said, the matter is under investigation by SIT, CBI and ED, and it cannot be discussed, and it should not be allowed by the chair.

As there was argument between both sides on this, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said he will seek Advocate General's opinion on this, and reserved his ruling for Tuesday morning. *—PTI*

BJP State President BY Vijayendra with Opposition leader R Ashoka and others protest in Bengaluru on Monday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

White topping of City roads to cost of ₹1,800 cr: DKS

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

The Opposition BJP on Monday tore into the ruling Congress over the Rs 187 crore scam in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation.

Launching a blistering attack on the government, Leader of Opposition in the assembly, R Ashoka said through this scam, which took the life of a sincere and honest government officer Chandrasekharan P, has exposed the 'anti-Dalit' face of the government.

"There used to be scams of two per cent, three per cent and 10 per cent but the Valmiki Corporation scam beats all. This is the '100 per cent Khata-Khat' scam," Ashoka said during the adjournment motion in the House on the irregularity.

'Those involved in female foeticide won't get bail easily'

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday said the State government will strengthen the legislation concerned to ensure that doctors and quacks involved in female foeticide do not get bail easily. Rao said his department will hold discussions with the police department to make sure that such cases are booked under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994. *—PTI*

Not afraid of politically malicious criticism: CM

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

With Opposition parties targeting his government over alleged financial irregularities in a state-run corporation in both Houses of Karnataka legislature and planning to raise the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 'scam' issue, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he has answers to their "every word" and it is not in his nature to sit quietly, afraid of politically malicious criticism. He also accused BJP and JD(S) of adopting "hit and run" tactics by lying before the media, and asserted that it will not be allowed in the House (Legislative Assembly/ Council). "How true are the allegations of the opposition parties? How much lies? We will bring it to light in this House," Siddaramaiah said on X. "BJP and JD(S) leaders, I have an answer for every word of yours. It's not like lying before the media so far, standing somewhere far away and shooting a bullet in the air." *—PTI*

Minister proposes direct recruitment plan for revenue dept

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

A direct recruitment plan was passed in the Legislative Assembly on Monday to fill vacant posts in the Revenue Department to expedite the processing of the thousands of pending land survey and registration applications in the State.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that operating with only half its staff, and with thousands of applications pending, has raised concerns about land encroachments. The government has approved Rs 23 crore tender for the Autonomous Precision Survey Rover (APSR), which will handle survey stake-out functions and aims to perform land surveys three times faster than a human surveyor.

Currently, the Revenue Department has fewer than 4,700 surveyors, including permanent staff and licensed surveyors.

BJP members alleged that the Revenue Department has been silent about the land encroachments occurring in the state due to the lack of land surveys. *—Salar News*

Krishna Byre Gowda *PHOTO: X/@ONLINEGHOSH*

MLA and Valmiki corp chairperson denies he was missing

Karnataka MLA and Chairperson of the scam-hit Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, Basanagouda Daddal who was inaccessible for the last few days attended the Assembly session here on Monday and denied he went 'missing.' Daddal, the Raichur Rural Congress MLA, reached the Vidhana Soudha to attend the Assembly session that started from Monday. *—PTI*

Minister alleges step-motherly treatment over AIIMS

Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday accused the Centre of adopting a 'step-motherly attitude' towards the State on the issue of setting up an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and upgrading existing government medical colleges. He said the Centre was not responding to the State's repeated requests to set up the premier medical institution in Raichur district. *—PTI*

Waterlogging, traffic choke City after rains

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

Bengaluru residents finally received a good spell of rain on Monday after weeks of mostly cloudy skies.

The rain in the afternoon had sent two-wheeler riders scrambling for cover and drenched areas like Shantinagar and Richmond Town.

Two-wheeler riders, in particular, faced the brunt of the heavy rainfall. It also had an impacted an ongoing protest by hot meal activists in Freedom Park. However, the determined group continued their demonstration, albeit under umbrellas.

The rain also caused waterlogging in several areas, significantly impacting traffic flow. The traffic police issued advisories for slow-moving traffic due to waterlogging near Dommasandra circle, Marathahalli towards Kadubeesanahalli service road, and Palace Cross towards Chakravarthy layout. Additionally, a fallen tree near Vaibhav Theatre Sanjay Nagar main road caused further delays.

The traffic police urged commuters to be cautious and avoid these affected areas if possible. The rain is expected to continue, and the residents are advised to stay updated on the latest weather forecasts and traffic updates. Meteorological department experts attributed the rainfall to a drop in barometric pressure in the East Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. The city itself experienced moderate showers, while several coastal districts received heavy rainfall. *—Salar News*

Slow-moving traffic due to tree fallen near vaibhav theater Sanjay Nagar Road *PHOTO: X/@RTNAGARTRAFFIC*

MANGALURU WELCOMES CELEBRITIES

Indian team batsman KL Rahul along with his wife Athiya Shetty offer prayers at Swamy Koragajja Aadisthala in Kuthar at Mangaluru; Actress Katrina Kaif speaking to a temple official on Monday *PHOTO: X/@COOL_RAHULFAN/ SCREENGRAB*

Copyright violation: FIR against Rakshit Shetty

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

An FIR has been registered against Kannada actor-filmmaker Rakshit Shetty over alleged 'unauthorised usage' of a music company's two songs in his movie 'Bachelor Party'', police said on Monday.

The complaint was filed against Shetty and his production house by Naveen Kumar, who is a partner at MRT Music, at Yeshwanthapura police station, alleging that two songs – "Gaalimathu" and "Nyaya Ellide" -- were used in the comedy film without obtaining authorised permissions, they said.

"Based on a complaint filed, we have registered a case under the Copyright Act on June 24 against the actor. A notice was also sent to the actor on 14 July in connection with the matter after we received some documents from the complainant in connection with the case.

They (the actor's team) have received the police notice today. However, since the actor is out of state for his shoot, once he returns, we will record his detailed statement. An investigation is underway," a senior police officer said. A notice has been sent by the police to the actor in this connection, police said. There was no immediate comment from Shetty or his team on the allegation.

The movie directed by Abhijit Mahesh, which released on 26 January this year, was produced by the actor under his company "Paramvah Studios." The complainant has alleged that Shetty used these songs in the movie in violation of copyright act without purchasing broadcast and ownership rights.

He also alleged that discussions were held between the two parties in January this year about using these songs in the movie but they were unsuccessful. *—PTI*

Rakshit Shetty *PHOTO: X/@RAKSHITSHETTY*

TOLL FREE NO. 1933 FOR NCB TO BE LAUNCHED

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The first-ever national toll-free telephonic helpline - 1933 - along with an email (info.ncbmanas@gov.in) is expected to be launched this week by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that will allow any person to tip off the NCB about narcotics crimes and related issues, official sources said on Monday.

The helpline named MANAS will be rolled out during the seventh apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) to be held here on 18 July. *—PTI*

MEDIA ACADEMY CHIEF SPEAKS

'Will help govt curb extortion by journalists'

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

- The Kalaburagi native said they would propose laws to the government to monitor cybercrimes committed under the guise of media

The rise in blackmail and extortion cases involving journalists in Karnataka is alarming, said Ayesha Khanum, a senior journalist and the first woman chairperson of Karnataka Media Academy. "There is a growing sense that the corruption starts at the top of the media. Although it is not within the purview of the Karnataka Media Academy, we will advise the state government on ways to curb this menace,'' Khanum, also the first woman from a minority community to hold the position, told Salar News on Monday.

Having being in media for over 26 years, Khanum has worked with Doordarshan, Asian Age, Aaj Tak and Star News. She reported on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and covered Assembly elections in 11 Indian states and 5 General Elections.

Ayesha Khanum *PHOTO: PTI*

The Kalaburagi native said they would propose laws to the government to monitor cybercrimes committed under the guise of media. "There is no shortcut to being a genuine journalist, and currently, it's a free-for-all. All these points will be brought to the attention of State government. Look at how the Prime Minister's Office handles media affairs. They know the background of every single journalist, and this system needs to be replicated here with strict guidelines. Uploading one clip on social media or elsewhere does not make one a journalist.''

Khanum also expressed concerns about journalism schools shutting down. "This puts the jobs of senior journalists working as faculty members at risk and discourages bright students from pursuing a career in journalism."

She said the academy will introduce finishing courses in journalism skills for students, especially from rural areas, to help them secure jobs in media houses.

"The academy is keen to start courses in both print and television," she added. *—Salar News*

3 killed in chain collision on NICE Road

BENGALURU, 15 JULY

A chain collision resulted in the death of three people and injuries to five others near Basapura Bridge on NICE Road towards Electronic City, on Monday.

Devaraju, 42, a resident of Kunigal, was killed instantly in the collision. Five other minibus passengers, along with the driver, were injured and promptly transported to Sacred Oak Hospital and Kauvery Hospital on Hosur Road. The occupants of the two cars escaped without injuries. The incident occurred around 9am when a minibus carrying 18 employees from a switchboard company in Bommasandra collided with a stationary 16-wheeler lorry parked on the roadside. The sudden impact caused two other cars following the minibus to crash into it, creating a chain reaction.

The occupants of the two cars escaped without injuries *PHOTO: X/@@BLRCITYTRAFFIC*

Bengaluru Traffic Police issued an advisory on social media, warning commuters of the accident and resulting traffic delays, while they cleared the vicinity.

The lorry, parked on the roadside, was believed to have had a mechanical issue. Electronic City traffic police have identified the lorry driver as the primary accused, citing negligence for leaving the vehicle on a busy road without proper safety precautions. The driver of the minibus has also been charged with rash and negligent driving. Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash. *—Salar News*

Security forces conduct search ops in 3 J&K districts

JAMMU, 15 JULY

Security forces conducted search operations in Jammu, Doda and Reasi districts on Monday following information about some suspicious movements, officials said. A joint operation by police and CRPF personnel was carried out at Lower Gharota, Thathi and adjoining areas in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu early on Monday after a villager reported suspicious movement of three persons in combat attire, the officials said. The security forces also conducted searches at Rumbal Nallah Kothian, Pouni, Dera Babbar, Kundle and Kanjli area of Reasi district on Monday morning. However, nothing suspicious was found during the searches that lasted for more than two hours, they said. The Jammu region has recently seen a surge in terror incidents, particularly in border districts such as Poonch, Rajouri, Doda and Reasi. Attacks on an IAF convoy, a pilgrim bus and the recent killing of soldiers in Kathua highlight the evolving threat. *—PTI*

Delhi cops file chargesheet in Parl security breach case

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Delhi Police on Monday filed a supplementary charge sheet before a court in the Parliament security breach case. The charge sheet was filed before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur after obtaining sanction to prosecute all accused under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The court listed the matter for arguments on cognisance for 2 August. It all extended the judicial custody of all accused till the next hearing. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

SC sends notice to Omar's wife on his divorce plea

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from Payal Abdullah, the estranged wife of Omar Abdullah, on a plea filed by the National Conference leader seeking divorce on grounds of cruelty. A bench of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah issued notice to Payal Abdullah and sought her response within six weeks. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Omar Abdullah, submitted that the marriage was "dead" as they have been living separately for the past 15 years. The Delhi High Court on 12 December, 2023 dismissed Omar Abdullah's plea seeking divorce, saying there was no merit in his appeal. The high court had upheld the 2016 family court order refusing to grant a decree of divorce to Abdullah *—PTI*

NEET: TEAR GAS USED

Police use tear gas and water cannons to disperse NSUI activists during their protest against the alleged paper leak of NEET-UG exam, in Bhopal on Monday *PHOTO: ANI*

China expert Vikram Misri is now Foreign Secretary

Usually MEA diplomats fill post but Misri was moved from NSA

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Seasoned diplomat Vikram Misri, widely regarded as an expert on China and national security, and assumed charge as India's new foreign secretary on Monday.

Misri, a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer who was serving as the deputy national security advisor, succeeded Vinay Kwatra.

The 59-year-old assumed charge of the key position at a time India is looking to navigate various geo-political challenges, including its frosty ties with China following the lingering eastern Ladakh border row and the consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

External affairs Minister S Jaishankar congratulated Misri on assuming his new responsibility.

"Congratulate Foreign Secretary @VikramMisri as he assumes his new responsibility today. Wish him a productive and successful tenure," he said on X.

Misri served in various capacities at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in the Prime Minister's Office and in various Indian missions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

Misri is believed to have played a key role in talks between India and China after tensions flared significantly following the Galwan Valley clashes in June, 2020.

The ties between the two countries nosedived following a fierce clash in the Galwan Valley that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Before joining the government, he worked for three years in the private sector in the fields of advertising and advertising film-making. Misri is a Fellow of the Aspen Institute USA's India Leadership Initiative (now the Kamalnayan Bajaj Fellowship). *—PTI*

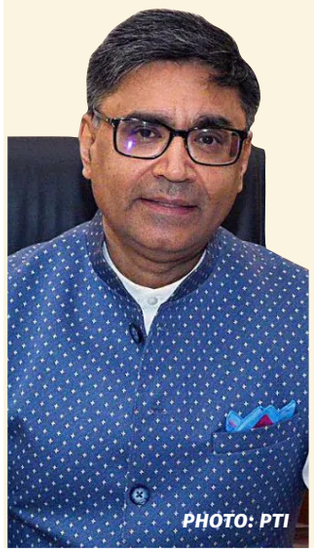


PHOTO: PTI

WHO IS VIKRAM MISRI?

- Vikram Misri joined Indian Foreign Service in 1989
- 2012: He was the private secretary to former prime minister Manmohan Singh and then to Narendra Modi
- 2014: He was ambassador to Spain
- 2016: He was ambassador to Myanmar
- 2019-2021: He was ambassador of India to China
- 2022-2024: He was Deputy National Security Advisor of India
- 15 July, 2024: Becomes the 35th Foreign Secretary of India
- He was born on 7 November, 1964 in Srinagar to a Kashmiri Hindu family

'WILL RISE AFTER BYPOLLS'

BJP's tally has dipped for the first time in several years *PHOTO: PTI*

BJP's tally falls below 90 in RS

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

BJP's tally in Rajya Sabha has dipped below 90 for the first time in several years but the party and its allies are expected to not only recoup their losses but also make some gains when by-elections to fill the existing vacancies are held in the coming weeks.

While the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is confident of winning two seats each in Bihar, Maharashtra and Assam and one each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura due to their numerical superiority over the opposition, the four new nominated members are also expected to be pro-treasury benches whenever the government names them.

Though nominated members are usually independent in the House in terms of their party affiliation, they are traditionally supportive of the agenda of the government which picks them.

The current strength of Rajya Sabha is 226 with the BJP having 86 followed by 26 of the Congress and 13 of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). There are currently 19 vacancies.

Election Commission (EC) is yet to announce the date for elections to fill the 11 vacancies effected by the resignation of as many members. Out of the total 19 vacancies in the 245-member Rajya Sabha, four are from Jammu and Kashmir where there is no assembly currently after the erstwhile state was made a Union Territory in 2019. *—PTI*

AAP is lying, Kejri lost 2kg not 8kg, says Tihar

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

A day after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had lost 8.5 kg in prison, Tihar jail sources on Monday said he had only lost 2 kg and he was being regularly monitored by a medical board of AIIMS.

The sources said the jail administration has written to the Delhi government's Home Department regarding the allegations levelled by AAP ministers and leaders, saying that such a narrative "confuses and misleads the public".

Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said that with this, the Tihar authorities have accepted that Kejriwal has lost weight.

AAP had on Sunday alleged that BJP was conspiring to harm Kejriwal's health by keeping him in jail and that he was not getting the necessary medical attention as a diabetic.

Arvind Kejriwal *PHOTO: PTI*

According to Kejriwal's health report shared by the Tihar sources, Kejriwal weighed 65 kg when he first came to prison on 1 April and 66 kg between 8 and 29 April.

When he returned to prison on 2 June after a 21-day bail, his weight was 63.5 kg.

According to the sources, Kejriwal is being provided home-cooked food but he has been regularly returning portions of it since 3 June.

Kejriwal was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court on Friday in the money laundering case but he remains in jail in connection with the CBI case. *—PTI*

DIDI SAYS NOTHING DEFAMATORY AGAINST GUV

KOLKATA, 15 JULY

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee firmly stood by her statement that women had expressed fear about visiting the Raj Bhavan, opposing a plea before the Calcutta High Court by Governor CV Ananda Bose for an interim order related to a defamation suit he filed against the chief minister and other TMC leaders.

Bose, represented by his lawyer, sought to restrain Banerjee, two newly elected MLAs and another TMC leader from making further comments in connection with alleged incidents at Raj Bhavan.

SN Mookherjee argued before Justice Krishna Rao that her remarks were a fair comment on issues of public interest and not defamatory.

The counsel said he was ready to state on affidavit names of who expressed apprehensions. *—PTI*

CAUVERY ROW

Annamalai claims DMK not taking measures to mitigate water crisis

CHENNAI, 15 JULY

BJP Tamil Nadu President K Annamalai slammed DMK-led state government on Monday for taking no constructive measures to mitigate the water crisis in the state.

He said that per capita water availability in Tamil Nadu is at an alarming level and that if measures are not taken, the state will face extreme water scarcity by 2050.

"The per capita water availability in Tamil Nadu is at an alarming level, & the state government has taken no constructive measures to mitigate this risk," Annamalai posted on X.

"While the cultivable land area is already at a record low, TN will have extreme water scarcity by 2050 if no constructive measures are taken now," he added.

BJP President K Annamalai claims that Tamil Nadu will have extreme water scarcity by 2050 *PHOTO: ANI*

The water crisis in the state has been in the spotlight again after Karntaka decided to release only 8,000 cusecs of water from the Cauvery River to Tamil Nadu instead of the 1 tmcft (11,500 cusecs) of water that the CWRC directed the state to release.

On 14 July, Karnataka government and Tamil Nadu government has condemned decision and will convene an all-party meeting *—ANI*

COURTESY CALL

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in Delhi, on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

Bhujbal meets Sharad Pawar to discuss Maratha quota, OBC issue

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Monday met NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar at his residence and sought his intervention into the Maratha quota issue and objections over it by OBC leaders.

Speaking to reporters later, Bhujbal said had a meeting with Pawar for nearly one-and-a half-hours and the latter told him that he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other leaders in the next two days.

Bhujbal, an OBC leader who belongs to the rival NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, met former Union minister Sharad Pawar at his 'Silver Oak' residence in Mumbai.

The visit came a day after his veiled attack at Sharad Pawar for the opposition's boycott of an all-party meeting on the Maratha quota issue.

Bhujbal on Sunday claimed the Opposition leaders stayed away from the meeting on 9 July "after a phone call from Baramati at 5pm".

Notably, Baramati Lok Sabha constituency in Pune district is the bastion of 83-year-old veteran politician Sharad Pawar.

After the meeting on Monday, Bhujbal said Sharad Pawar told him he would discuss the ongoing deadlock over Marathas demanding their inclusion in OBC category for quota with CM Shinde and other key leaders in the state.

Sources in the NCP suggested Bhujbal was having a feeling of not being heard in his party. He is with Ajit Pawar's outfit, but politically alienated within the party, they added. *—PTI*

Chhagan Bhujbal *PHOTO: PTI*

Sharad Pawar *PHOTO: PTI*

Poisoned food given to Mukhtar Ansari: Son to SC

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari's son on Monday alleged before the Supreme Court that the food given to his father was "poisoned" and he was denied the requisite medical treatment due to which he died in custody. On 28 March, Ansari, a five-time MLA from Mau Sadar constituency, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in Banda in Uttar Pradesh.

"All we can say is, what we feared, has happened," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Umar Ansari, told the bench. The bench, which issued notice on the application, told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, who was appearing, that he can file his response to it. *—PTI*

'A BIG REFORM'

Ex-MP judge, now BJP man, hails BNS

BHOPAL, 15 JULY

Former Madhya Pradesh High Court judge Rohit Arya has joined BJP, three months after his retirement, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public-oriented developmental work and the party's policies as his primary influences.

Notably, Arya in 2021 had denied bail to stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui, accused of hurting religious sentiments and violating Covid-19 protocols during a show in Indore, and another accused in the case.

Arya joined BJP after addressing the workshop at the party office in Bhopal on Saturday, a party leader said on Monday.

Addressing a workshop at the BJP office in Bhopal on the newly-introduced Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Arya praised the legislation as a big reform aimed at providing justice to common people, contrasting it with British-era laws intended for punishment.

Former Madhya Pradesh HC judge Rohit Arya (third from left) joined BJP on Saturday in Bhopal *PHOTO: @BJP4MP/X*

Expressing his gratitude towards the Central government, Arya emphasised the significance of the BNS, predicting it would usher in significant reforms.

Arya was appointed as a judge of the MP High Court on 12 September, 2013 and became a permanent judge on 26 March, 2015. He retired on 27 April, 2024.

Speaking to PTI on Monday, Arya highlighted his commitment to ensuring the mental and physical health of marginalised citizens, stating that their well-being is essential for the country's social and economic development.

Arya said he had delivered several good judgements on issues concerning common people and wondered why the order passed by him in the Faruqui is highlighted. *—PTI*

Mob vandalises, hoists saffron flag at Kolhapur mosque

KOLHAPUR, 15 JULY

A Hindutva mob part of a rally organised by former Rajya Sabha MP Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati vandalised and planted a saffron flag atop the mosque in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district on Sunday.

They were protesting against the alleged illegal encroachment at the Vishalgad Fort. Chhatrapati's supporters attacked the mosque and members of the Muslim community in Gajapur village, a few kilometres away from Vishalgad.

Condemning the act, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Imran Sanadi said, "The situation was very bad there. Now, it has become better. Houses were demolished and they were harmed greatly. No one died, but there are many injured. They were attacked with swords and sticks. Even some policemen were attacked with swords," he said.

PHOTO: X/ @HATEDETECTORS

"Muslims were targeted. They were brutally beaten up. Even a six-year-old child was assaulted," he said.

Videos of the incident have gone viral, showing a group of people climbing the mosque walls, planting a saffron flag, and hammering a minaret with an axe. Another video shows the mob destroying while chanting 'Jai Shri Ram.' *—Salar News with Agencies*

PHOTO: ANI

Delhi: 600 pollution under control centres shut

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Around 600 PUC centres across 400 petrol pumps in the national capital will remain closed from Monday in response to a protest call by petrol dealers and pump owners. The closure call of Pollution Under Control Centres (PUCC) by the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association (DPDA) comes following the Delhi government's proposed hike in pollution certificate charges. DPDA president Nischal Singhania told PTI that the association has decided to go ahead with the strike as the running of PUCC centres have become unviable. The Kejriwal government on Thursday increased the PUC certificate charges for petrol, CNG and diesel vehicles after a gap of about 13 years. The hike ranges between Rs 20 and Rs 40. *—PTI*

2 out of 8 CAA candidates appear for interview

GUWAHATI, 15 JULY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday that eight people have applied under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Assam prior to 1971, and only two have appeared for the interview. He further stated that anyone who came to India before 2015 has the first right to apply for citizenship, and if they do not apply, a case will be lodged against them. "Anyone who came to India before 2015 has the first right to apply for citizenship under the CAA. If they don't apply, we will lodge a case against them. This is a statutory instruction. We will deport those who came after 2015," Sarma said. *—ANI*

2 more members of Canada-based terrorist Landa held

CHANDIGARH, 15 JULY

Punjab Police on Monday said it has busted an inter-state weapon smuggling module with the arrest of two operatives of Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa. The police recovered six pistols from the accused, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav. "In an intelligence-based operation, Punjab Police busts inter-state weapon smuggling module and apprehends 2 operatives of foreign-based terrorist Lakhbir @ Landa and recovers six sophisticated pistols along with magazines and ammunition (sic)," Yadav said in a post on X. He said a case has been registered in connection with the matter at the State Special Operation Cell in Amritsar. *—PTI*

Kerala man stuck inside hospital lift for 2 days rescued

T'PURAM, 15 JULY

A 59-year-old man was stuck in a lift at the Government Medical College Hospital in the Kerala capital for two days, but the officials responsible for its operation were unaware of the situation until Monday morning, prompting the authorities to initiate disciplinary action against them for their alleged lapses. Ulloor resident Ravindran Nair, a patient who came for a medical check up, had been stuck inside the lift of the OP Block of the government medical college here since Saturday and was rescued by an operator who had arrived for routine work, police said. He has been admitted to the hospital for a detailed medical examination. "He (Nair) got into the lift to go to the first floor but claims that the lift came down and did not open. He says he shouted for help, but no one came. His phone was also switched off," police said. *—PTI*

India, US carry out wargame in Indian Ocean

USS Theodore Roosevelt is a Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered, aircraft carrier of US Navy

This joint maritime activity advanced interoperability between the two major defence partners *PHOTO: X/@INDIANNAVY*

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Indian Navy's frontline warships carried out a mega military exercise with the Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group of the US in the Indian Ocean, demonstrating the growing strategic congruence between the two sides in the key maritime domain.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt is a Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered, aircraft carrier of the US Navy.

A carrier battle group or carrier strike group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships. The Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group operated alongside forces from the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean on 12 July, the US embassy said.

The wargame came amid increasing concerns among democratic countries over China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the larger Indo-Pacific region. The Indian Navy's deployment included guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam and replenishment ship INS Aditya.

"This joint maritime activity advanced interoperability between the two major defence partners and underscores their shared commitment to upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific," the embassy said. The US and Indian military forces focused on improving shared maritime domain awareness and information sharing, enhancing replenishment and logistics interoperability and improving combined air-to-air capabilities, it said.

"Participating units include the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, Carrier Air Wing 11, and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye," it said. The USS Theodore Roosevelt is currently operating with carrier strike group nine after conducting this joint maritime activity in the 7th Fleet area of operations.

The Indian Navy routinely participates alongside US Navy units in multilateral exercises across the Pacific, including Southwest Asia and littoral Africa. "In addition to the group sail, the Indian Navy is also operating in leadership roles with the US Navy and other allies and partners in the ongoing Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024 exercise in Hawaii," the US readout said. *—PTI*

Tripura violence: 300 villagers still homeless

AGARTALA, 15 JULY

Around 300 villagers whose houses were set on fire three days ago following the death of a 19-year-old man in a clash between two groups in Tripura's Dhalai district are yet to return to their homes, officials said on Monday.

They have been staying at a shelter after the 12 July arson in Gandatwisa village, around 110 km from the state capital Agartala. A team led by Dhalai District Magistrate Saju Vaheed held a meeting with the affected families on Sunday and assured them of the necessary steps for providing security and compensation, the officials said. "At least 40 houses were severely damaged and around 30 shops were looted by the attackers. The affected family members are now staying at the Gandatwisa Higher Secondary School. The situation has improved in Gandatwisa with the deployment of additional security personnel in the vulnerable pockets," Gandatwisa Sub Divisional Magistrate Chandrajoy Reang told PTI over the telephone.

The administration has taken all possible steps to provide compensation to around 80 families affected by the arson, he said. The team led by the district magistrate also held a meeting with the members of a local committee to open the market, another official said. *—PTI*

The affected family members are now staying at the Gandatwisa Higher Secondary School *PHOTO: PTI*

AFTER KHEDKAR, EX-IAS IS ALSO UNDER RADAR

PUNE, 15 JULY

Amidst the ongoing controversy over probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar, it has now been revealed that Khedkar had submitted a non-creamy layer OBC Certificate to secure admission to MBBS in 2007.

As per information given by Arvind Bhore, Director of Shrimati Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital, Puja had secured a seat for the MBBS course in the college through the Association of Management of Unaided Private Medical and Dental Colleges of Maharashtra (AMUPDMC) entrance test and had scored 146 marks out of 200. She was enrolled in the college's first batch in 2007. The police have registered a first information report against her mother. Puja's parents have been on the run, police officers said. Police said Puja Khedkar's parents had switched off their phones.

The AMUPMDC exam no longer exists after the introduction of NEET. Now questions are being raised over other former bureaucrat's selection under disability criteria. *—PTI*

14TH BRIDGE COLLAPSE IN BIHAR

The bridge in Gaya, which was built over Gulskari River connecting Bhagwati and Sharma villages, collapsed in Bihar on Monday. This is the 14th bridge collapse in a month *PHOTO: GOOGLE IMAGE*

AMETHI: PROVOCATIVE SLOGANS RAISED DURING MUHARRAM

AMETHI, 15 JULY

Police have launched an investigation after a video of provocative slogans being raised during a Muharram procession here went viral on social media, officials said on Monday.

According to police, the incident took place on Sunday when a procession was taken out in the Musafirkhana area.

As the procession passed the Musafirkhana police station, some youths who were part of it allegedly raised provocative slogans, the police said. The video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

The matter is under investigation and strict action will be taken against those responsible, said Superintendent of Police Anup Kumar Singh. Meanwhile, Peethadheeshwar Mouni Maharaj of Babuganj Sagara Ashram strongly condemned the sloganeering and urged Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to take immediate action.

Thousands take part in Srinagar procession

The Shia community of Kashmir on Monday took out a Muharram procession to mark the eighth day of mourning on the traditional Guru Bazar-Dalgate route, officials said. *—PTI*

SC to set up bench for pleas against passage of laws

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a suggestion for setting up a constitution bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws like the Aadhaar Act by the Modi government as money bills allegedly to bypass the Rajya Sabha where it was in a minority.

The BJP currently has 86 MPs and the ruling NDA 101 in the 245-member Rajya Sabha where the majority mark is 123. The passage of bills like the Aadhaar Act and even amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as money bills, apparently to circumvent the Rajya Sabha when the NDA did not have a majority there, has been at the centre of a major political and legal row.

Supreme Court *PHOTO: PTI*

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh is one of the petitioners who have challenged the passage of the Aadhaar Act of 2016 as money bill under Article 110 of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday that the pleadings are complete and the petitions needed to be listed for hearing. *—PTI*

RAIN FURY CONTINUES

Amit Shah speaks to CMs of Assam, UP and Gujarat

People use a plastic cover to protect themselves from rain in Delhi on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday spoke to chief ministers of Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat to take stock of the situation there due to floods and heavy rains and assured them of all central help, sources said.

In his talks with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over the telephone, Shah enquired about the flood situation in the state. Sarma briefed Shah about the prevailing situation and steps taken so far, sources said.

In his calls to Chief Ministers Yogi Adityanath and Bhupendra Patel, the Union home minister took stock of the situation in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat due to rising water levels in rivers following heavy rains. Shah assured the three chief ministers of all possible assistance from the Central government to tide over the situation, sources said.

So far 109 people lost their lives in Assam in floods and rain-related incidents. More than 5,97,600 people were affected by floods in Assam's Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karimganj, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari and Sivasagar districts. *—PTI*

Forest officials rescue tourists trapped at Anjaneri Waterfall after nearly six hours of effort amidst heavy rain in Maharashtra *PHOTO: X*

Rescue personnel during a search operation; (Inset) Joy *PHOTO: PTI/X*

Body of missing sanitary worker found in Kerala canal

T'PURAM, 15 JULY

The Kerala government said on Monday that the body of a sanitary worker, Joy, who had gone missing while cleaning a canal filled with waste and filth in the state capital two days earlier, had been found. The government authorities confirmed that the body found in the Amayizhanchan canal on Monday morning was indeed that of 47-year-old Joy. The decomposed body was found in canal on the Pazhavangadi-Thakaraparambu-Vanchiyoor Road by corporation sanitation workers. An expert team from the Indian Navy had joined the search. *—PTI*

Konkan Rly arranges buses for passengers

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

The Konkan Railway on Monday arranged state transport buses for passengers stranded for more than 15 hours in trains halted due to a landslide on the route, an official said. Efforts are on to clear the tracks nearly 22 hours after the landslide between Vinhere and Divan Khawati stations in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts. *—PTI*

FIR REGISTERED

Disability groups slam Yuvi, Raina, Bhajji

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Disability rights groups have criticised former cricketers Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Suresh Raina for "mocking" people with disabilities in a video in which they are seen trying to recreate actor Vicky Kaushal's viral dance step from the song "Tauba Tauba".

A police complaint has been filed against former cricketers Harbhajan, Raina, Yuvraj and Gurkeerat Mann for allegedly mocking people with disabilities in a video that was uploaded on Instagram. In the video, Yuvraj, Harbhajan and Raina are seen limping and holding their backs to show the physical toll taken by the matches on their bodies.

The former cricketers shared the video on Instagram after

Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Suresh Raina are seen limping in a viral video 'Tauba Tauba' *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

India Champions beat Pakistan Champions by five wickets in the World Championship of Legends final.

Disability activists have found the video to be in poor taste. The National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled called the video "totally disgraceful".

"No words are sufficient enough to condemn such behaviour specially when displayed by people cvonsidered national heroes. Such degrading actions only expose their total insensitivity and boorishness," the NPRD said in a post on X.

National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People executive director Arman Ali urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to take note of the video.

"Disgusting to see India's top cricketers mocking disability. Shameful and atrocious behaviour from those who are idolised by masses. Shame on them.

I urge BCCI to take immediate note of this," he said. Disability rights activist Satendra Singh said these cricketers are role models for a lot of Indians and Yuvraj Singh, who has battled cancer, should have been more empathetic. *—PTI*

MUHARRAM MONTH

Iraqi Shiites mark the month of Muharram in Najaf, Iraq, on Sunday. Muharram commemorates the death of Prophet Muhammed's grandson, Hussein Ibn Ali, who was killed during the Battle of Karbala on the tenth day of Muharram, known as the Day of Ashouraay
PHOTO: PTI

How will both parties react after Trump's attack?

It is tempting to draw grand conclusions from the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump this weekend. The coarse rhetoric currently in vogue in American politics, not to mention the Capitol riot on January 6, 2021, provide plenty of fodder for this kind of speculation.

In reality, the shooting, while horrible, does not come as a total surprise in the context of American history or even in the current presidential campaign.

Divisive and extreme political campaigns from both parties are now the norm. Criminal prosecutions of Trump and President Joe Biden's son Hunter have become politicised. And American voters are more often driven to vote against the other party's candidate than to vote for their own.

Yes, activists and officials in both parties will try to use the shooting for campaign advantage by tapping into voters' emotions.

Politicians will accentuate the horror of the attempted assassination and declare various phenomena as "existential threats" or use similar apocalyptic language.

But the overall political environment, while uncomfortable, embarrassing and occasionally deeply concerning, is not entirely unprecedented or even an extreme example of American political life.

To put it plainly: American politics has always been a bloody fight.

Political environment has become volatile in the US ***PHOTO: PTI***

History of political violence

In the latter half of the 20th century, one American president was assassinated (John F. Kennedy), another was wounded (Ronald Reagan) and another targeted (Gerald Ford).

In addition, two major presidential candidates were assassinated (Robert F. Kennedy) or nearly so (George Wallace). Numerous other plots were disrupted.

American politics from the 1960s to the early 1980s were incredibly divisive and violent. During just the years 1971 and 1972, more than 2,500 politically motivated bombings occurred in the United States (nearly five per day), mostly from left-wing protesters against the war in Vietnam.

As the US has become increasingly polarised in recent years, the political environment today has become volatile again.

In 2011, Representative Gabby Giffords was shot and nearly killed at an event in Arizona by a man suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. In 2017, a Bernie Sanders supporter shot at several Republican congressmen and staffers, nearly killing Representative Steve Scalise of Louisiana, now the House majority leader.

And of course, the Trump-instigated insurrection of the Capitol during the counting of electoral votes in the 2020 presidential election gives millions of Americans good reason to believe that Trump and his supporters remain a threat to democratic processes.

Democrats' opportunity

Another immediate consequence of the assassination attempt will be to turn the national conversation temporarily away from Biden's debate performance in late June. This political dilemma for Democrats, however, will not go away.

Given Biden's age and obvious decline, White House efforts to prop up perceptions about his fitness for office will likely not be enough to persuade his fellow Democrats he can beat Trump in November.

Even before the shooting, polls indicated Biden was likely to lose the election. It will be even harder now, given the shooting will galvanise Trump's supporters and likely widen his appeal to others.

Many Democrats believe a different candidate – Vice President Kamala Harris or another leading Democrat – would have a better chance.

The Trump shooting now presents a new opportunity for Democrats to reset their campaign and make a broader appeal to American voters for calm and national unity.

They will need to tone down their own rhetoric about Trump's threat to democracy and instead make the case that their policy agenda is the preferred one for the American people.

The question is: can they quickly identify a new candidate to drive this new message? Even in the wake of Trump's near-death experience, that remains the biggest question in American politics.

Republicans' challenge

Trump's near-death experience will give his campaign – already based on portraying him as a victim of Democrats and the establishment – renewed energy. The pictures of Trump, with blood on his face, raising his fist in defiance after he was shot, are more valuable than hundreds of millions of dollars in campaign ads.

For instance, any attempt to turn this tragedy into an attack on Democrats or Biden and his character could prove counterproductive and only remind voters of Trump's tendency to incite nasty divisiveness.

Instead, Trump has an opportunity to show real leadership and make a broader appeal to undecided and independent voters. With his base locked in more than ever, will he reach out to persuadable Republican moderates and disaffected Democrats? Can he show that he can tone down his antagonistic rhetoric and even reach across the aisle?

Reagan did so – at least in tone if not his policy agenda – after he nearly died from an assassin's bullet in 1981.

So, can Republicans and Democrats use the tragic Trump shooting to pivot to a more positive message? American voters – as well as the US's friends and allies around the world.

The day after the shooting, Biden called Trump to express his concerns about his health and discuss the tragic event. Perhaps this small gesture of bipartisanship and civility can be an example for all in the days ahead. *—PTI*

SALAR سالار

Ukrainian startups create robots to fight Russia

Struggling with manpower shortages, overwhelming odds and uneven international assistance, Ukraine hopes to find a strategic edge against Russia in an abandoned warehouse or a factory basement.

An ecosystem of laboratories in hundreds of secret workshops is leveraging innovation to create a robot army that Ukraine hopes will kill Russian troops and save its own wounded soldiers and civilians.

Defence startups across Ukraine — about 250 according to industry estimates — are creating the killing machines at secret locations that typically look like rural car repair shops.

Employees at a startup run by entrepreneur Andrii Denysenko can put together an unmanned ground vehicle called the Odyssey in four days at a shed used by the company. Its most important feature is the price tag: USD 35,000, or roughly 10 per cent of the cost of an imported model.

Denysenko asked that The Associated Press not publish details of the location to protect the infrastructure and the people working there.

The site is partitioned into small rooms for welding and body work. That includes making fiberglass cargo beds, spray-painting the vehicles gun-green and fitting basic electronics, battery-powered engines, off-the-shelf cameras and thermal sensors.

The military is assessing dozens of new unmanned air, ground and marine vehicles produced by the no-frills startup sector, whose production methods are far removed from giant Western defence companies'.

A fourth branch of Ukraine's military — the Unmanned Systems Forces — joined the army, navy and air force in May.

Engineers take inspiration from articles in defence magazines or online videos to produce cut-price platforms. Weapons or smart components can be added later.

"We are fighting a huge country, and they don't have any resource limits. We understand that we cannot spend a lot of human lives," said Denysenko, who heads the defence startup UkrPrototyp. "War is mathematics."

One of its drones, the car-sized Odyssey, spun on its axis and kicked up dust as it rumbled forward in a cornfield in the north of the country last month.

The 800-kilogram (1,750-pound) prototype that looks like a small, turretless tank with its wheels on tracks can travel up to 30 kilometers (18.5 miles) on one charge of a battery the size of a small beer cooler.

The prototype acts as a rescue-and-supply platform but can be modified to carry a remotely operated heavy machine gun or sling mine-clearing charges.

"Squads of robots … will become logistics devices, tow trucks, minelayers and deminers, as well as self-destructive robots," a government fundraising page said after the launch of Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces. "The first robots are already proving their effectiveness on the battlefield."

Mykhailo Fedorov, the deputy prime minister for digital transformation, is encouraging citizens to take free online courses and assemble aerial drones at home. He wants Ukrainians to make a million of flying machines a year.

"There will be more of them soon," the fundraising page said. "Many more."

Denysenko's company is working on projects including a motorized exoskeleton that would boost a soldier's strength and carrier vehicles to transport a soldier's equipment and even help them up an incline. "We will do everything to make unmanned technologies develop even faster. (Russia's) murderers use their soldiers as cannon fodder, while we lose our best people," Fedorov wrote in an online post.

Ukraine has semi-autonomous attack drones and counter-drone weapons endowed with AI and the combination of low-cost weapons and artificial intelligence tools is worrying many experts who say low-cost drones will enable their proliferation.

Technology leaders to the United Nations and the Vatican worry that the use of drones and AI in weapons could reduce the barrier to killing and dramatically escalate conflicts.

Human Rights Watch and other international rights groups are calling for a ban on weapons that exclude human decision making, a concern echoed by the UN General Assembly, Elon Musk and the founders of the Google-owned, London-based startup DeepMind.

"Cheaper drones will enable their proliferation," said Toby Walsh, professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. "Their autonomy is also only likely to increase."

—PTI

Defence startups across Ukraine, about 250 according to industry estimates, are creating the killing machines at secret locations ***PHOTO: X/ @KVISTP***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

How SC's verdict on portrayal of impaired in Hindi films is a boon

Stereotyping differently-abled persons in cinema perpetuates discrimination and inequality ***PHOTO: FREEPIK***

Differently abled and derision have often gone hand in hand in mainstream Hindi cinema with numerous instances of impairments, visual, speech, physical and others, being used to get laughs – mostly unkind. A trend activists and lawyers hope will end with Supreme Court's recent "game changing" verdict.

Stereotyping differently abled persons in cinema perpetuates discrimination and inequality, the apex court said last week while asking filmmakers to refrain from misleading portrayals and laying down terms such as "crippled" and "spastic" that should not be used.

Humour can be an important element because it sometimes spreads the message about disability and acts as a tool for awareness, said Nipun Malhotra, who filed the petition that led to the Supreme Court verdict.

But there is a subtle difference between humour that is creating awareness and laughing at situations with people in disability space and humour that laughs at the disability itself. The Supreme Court, in its judgement, has beautifully separated that as 'disability humour which is acceptable' and 'disabling humour that is not acceptable'," the founder of the Nipman Foundation told PTI.

Activist lawyer Gaurav Bansal said the court has shown its "humane side" and the government should act proactively. Bansal and his associates had earlier filed a petition against the title of "Mental Hai Kya", a 2019 film starring Kangana Ranaut and Rajkummar Rao later retitled as "Judgementall Hai Kya".

The examples of movies lampooning the differently abled are plenty.

The success of Rohit Shetty's 2006 "Golmaal", for instance, actually spawned a multistarrer franchise. The laughs came mainly from the many discomfiting situations centred around Lucky, a character with speech disability played by Tusshar Kapoor. It also featured a blind couple, essayed by Paresh Rawal and Sushmita Mukerjee, for laughs.

Then there was the 2004 "Mujhse Shaadi Karogi", starring Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, which had the late Kader Khan playing Duggal Sahab, a person with a different disability every day.

"Judaai", the 1997 hit featuring Sridevi, Anil Kapoor, and Urmila Matondkar, featured a character played by Upasana Singh with a speech disorder. The film continues to be an active part of the meme culture in the era of social media.

Like Naseeruddin Shah's role as a blind school principal in "Sparsh". And 44 years later, comes Rajkummar Rao's portrayal as the visually-impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla in "Srikanth".

Shreyas Talpade-starrer "Iqbal" (2005) told the story of an aspiring cricketer man who suffers from a speech and hearing problem and overcomes the odds to become a triumph on the field.

In this scenario of but a few films looking at disabilities in all its dimensions, the Supreme Court verdict is a game changer, said Malhotra.

His petition came after he watched the 2023 film "Aankh Micholi", which contained deprecatory references to differently abled persons. The Hindi movie, directed by Umesh Shukla and written by Jitendra Parmar, revolves around a "family of misfits".

Malhotra, who has a locomotor disability, said the film was derogatory and such projections increase and reinforce stereotypes as well as spread misinformation about disabilities.

"The movie called somebody with a memory loss 'bhulakkad baap', it called somebody who stammers an 'atki hui cassette', night blindness was totally misappropriated and misrepresented compared to what it actually is as a disability," Malhotra said.

Supreme Court guidelines, he said, will be a useful tool for the community in general to challenge something when they are in violation of them.

"I'm pretty optimistic that it will create a positive change. Not only movie makers, but all content creators will think twice before laughing at disability for the sake of disability itself," Malhotra said.

Anil Joshi, a retired software professional and activist, agreed and said he hopes films and visual mediums from now on treat people with disabilities as equals.

In its 8 July judgement, Supreme Court said language that disparages persons with disabilities, marginalises them further and supplements the disabling barriers in their social participation must be approached with caution.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said words cultivate institutional discrimination and terms such as "cripple" and "spastic" have come to acquire devalued meanings in societal perceptions about persons with disabilities.

They contribute to negative self-image and perpetuate discriminatory attitudes and practices in society, the apex court said while enumerating a framework of the portrayal of persons with disabilities in visual media.

It also said such portrayals should reflect the multi-faceted lives of persons with disabilities, emphasising their roles as active community members who contribute meaningfully across various spheres of life.

"By highlighting their achievements and everyday experiences, media can shift the narrative from one of limitation to one of potential and agency.

"They should neither be lampooned based on myths (such as, 'blind people bump into objects in their path') nor presented as 'super cripples' on the other extreme. This stereotype implies that persons with disabilities have extraordinary heroic abilities that merit their dignified treatment," the bench said.

—PTI

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Pak journalist shot dead in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD, 15 JULY

In a tragic incident, a local journalist was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Nowshera city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Sunday, reported ARY News. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police confirmed the killing of a journalist and identified him as Hasan Zaib. He worked for a local newspaper.

Unidentified bike-borne assailants opened fire at him in a crowded market area of Akbarpura village, Nowshera. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, has demanded a comprehensive report from senior police officials in connection with the incident. CM Gandapur said that those involved in the murder would not evade justice and assured that the culprits would be apprehended soon, as reported by ARY News. *—ANI*

Azerbaijan reopens embassy in Iran after 1 year

TEHRAN, 15 JULY

The embassy of Azerbaijan in Tehran resumed its work on Monday after more than a year of negotiations between the two countries to ease tensions, Iran's semi-official media outlets reported. A source in the Azeri embassy in Tehran told The Associated Press that the embassy has resumed its operations in the Iranian capital, but said it won't be officially announced until the Iranian foreign ministry confirms the development. But an Azeri website news.az on Monday quoted Azerbaijan's foreign ministry as saying that its embassy in Iran has restarted work at a new address in Tehran. The report added that the embassy reopened following negotiations between Azerbaijan and Iran. *—AP*

Houthi rebels strike ship in Red Sea

DUBAI, 15 JULY

A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship in the Red Sea on Monday, as a new US aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago. The captain of the ship reported being attacked by three small vessels, two of which were crewed and another uncrewed, off the coast of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. The "reported unmanned small craft collided with the vessel twice and the 2 manned small craft fired at the vessel", the UKMTO reported. sel. *—AP*

Estonia PM steps down to become EU's top diplomat

HELSINKI, 15 JULY

Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas has stepped down as the leader of the Baltic country to become the foreign policy chief of the European Union later this year. Estonia's first female prime minister, handed in her formal resignation to President Alar Karis during a brief meeting at the Presidential Palace in the capital, Tallinn, on Monday. Estonia under Kallas has been one of Europe's most vocal backers of Ukraine following the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022. Summing up Kallas' 3 1/2 years at the helm of the nation of 1.3 M, Karis was quoted as saying by the Baltic News Service that, "it has been a time full of crises, the milestones such as the coronavirus, the economic recession and the war in Europe, when Russia destroyed our security picture with its aggression in Ukraine". *—PTI*

Republicans blame Biden for Trump attack

Joe Biden's reference of 'Trump in a bullseye' a week ago, led to speculations

WASHINGTON DC, 15 JULY

A group of Republican lawmakers are blaming US President Joe Biden, claiming his campaign rhetoric led to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump.

As of Sunday, nearly a dozen lawmakers have pointed fingers at Biden and Democrats at-large for the shooting Saturday evening at the former president's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

According to Politico, Biden said on the call: "I have one job, and that's to beat Donald Trump. I'm absolutely certain I'm the best person to be able to do that. So, we're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in a bullseye."

On Sunday, he ordered a review of security at the rally.

In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, the specific reference to "Trump in a bullseye" less than a week ago, has led some Republicans to place the burden of the shooting in part on Biden.

—BBC News

A motorcade of supporters of former president Donald Trump makes a stop at Trump Tower on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Thomas Crooks, 22-y-old shooter

WASHINGTON DC, 15 JULY

The small Pittsburgh suburb of Bethel Park in Pennsylvania is reeling after the FBI named a young local man, Thomas Matthew Crooks, as the person who shot at Donald Trump during a campaign rally and shocked the nation.

Crooks worked in a local nursing home kitchen just a short drive away from his home.

State voter records show that he was a registered Republican, according to US media.

He is also reported to have donated USD15 to liberal campaign group ActBlue in 2021. Some young locals who went to school with him described him as a loner, who was frequently bullied and sometimes wore "hunting outfits to school". Another former classmate of his, Summer Barkley, cast him differently, telling the BBC that he was "always getting good grades on tests" and was "very passionate about history".

She described him as well-liked by his teachers.

—BBC News

Thomas Matthew Crooks **PHOTO: X**

Anger & anxiety loom over Republican convention

WASHINGTON DC, 15 JULY

Donald Trump's campaign chiefs designed the convention opening this week to feature a softer and more optimistic message, focusing on themes that would help a divisive leader expand his appeal among moderate voters and people of colour.

Then came a shooting that rattled the foundation of American politics.

Suddenly, the Democrats' turmoil after the debate, the GOP's potential governing agenda and even Trump's criminal convictions became secondary to fears about political violence and the country's stability. The presumptive Republican nominee and his allies will face the nation during their four-day convention in Milwaukee unquestionably united and ready to "fight", as the bloodied Trump cried out Saturday while Secret Service agents at his Pennsylvania rally rushed him to safety.

Anger and anxiety are coursing through the party, even as many top Republicans call for calm and a lowering of tensions.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, known for his sunny and optimistic vision of Republican politics, suggested online the attempted assassination had been "aided and abetted by the radical Left and corporate media incessantly calling Trump a threat to democracy, fascists, or worse".

There are no changes yet to the convention programme

—AP

PHOTO: X

Biden orders review of security at Trump's rally

WASHINGTON DC, 15 JULY

US President Joe Biden has ordered an independent review of the security measures at the Pennsylvania rally where an attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump occurred. In his remarks from the White House on Sunday, Biden said, "I've directed an independent review of national security at yesterday's rally to assess exactly what happened." "And we'll share the results of that review with the American people as well," he added. *—ANI*

BRAVE FIGHTER

Corey Comperatore: Firefighter killed at rally

WASHINGTON DC, 15 JULY

Corey Comperatore, a 50-year-old volunteer fire chief, dove onto family members when the shots rang out on Sunday at Donald Trump's election rally.

"Corey died a hero," Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro said at a news conference on Sunday.

Pennsylvania state police said the other two people shot were 57-year-old David Dutch and 74-year-old James Copenhaver. Both were in a stable condition on Sunday.

The Pennsylvania governor said that he spoke to Mr Comperatore's wife and two daughters. "Corey went to church every Sunday," he said. "Corey loved his community. Most especially, Corey loved his family." He said that Comperatore was an avid supporter of Donald Trump and was excited to be at the rally Saturday. Comperatore's daughter Allyson described him as "the best dad a girl could ever ask for" and said he had "died a real-life superhero". *—BBC News*

Imran Khan has been lodged at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on account of multiple cases against him since his ouster as prime minister in April 2022 **PHOTO: PTI**

Pak bans Imran Khan's PTI for anti-state activities

ISLAMABAD, 15 JULY

In a controversial move, the Pakistan government on Monday announced that it will ban jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for its alleged involvement in anti-state activities and slap cases against him and two of his senior party colleagues for treason.

"In view of the foreign funding case, 9 May riots, and the cipher episode as well as the resolution passed in the US, we believe that there is very credible evidence present to have Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) banned," Information Minister Attaullah Tarar made the surprising announcement at a press conference here.

Khan, 71, has been lodged at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on account of multiple cases against him since his ouster as prime minister in April 2022. Tarar said that if the country is to move in a forward direction, it cannot do so with PTI's existence.

Tarar also announced that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led government and its coalition partners have decided to file a review appeal against the decision of the Supreme Court granting reserved seats to the PTI in the National Assembly. "The apex court gave relief to the PTI which had not even asked for it," the minister said. The minister said the ruling alliance has also decided to move a case against the then-prime minister, then-president Alvi and then National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri.

—PTI

POLICE ARREST IMRAN KHAN OVER 9 MAY RIOTS

LAHORE, 15 JULY

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was 'arrested' by Lahore Police in connection with cases against him over 9 May riots after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) secured his eight-day remand in the Toshakhana case, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported.

Citing security reasons, Khan could not be shifted to Lahore for a hearing but will virtually appear before an anti-terrorism court on Monday in Lahore via video conferencing, Dawn reported.

Khan refused to meet the police team when they tried to interrogate him. They convicted him of provoking the public against the government.

Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were sent to six-day physical remand in a new Toshakhana case on Sunday, Pakistan-based ARY News reported. *—ANI*

Oli sworn-in as Nepal PM for 4th term

KATHMANDU, 15 JULY

KP Sharma Oli on Monday was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties.

Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), Oli was sworn in by President Paudel at Shital Niwas, the main building of Rashtrapati Bhawan at a ceremony that was delayed by more than half an hour. *—PTI*

Newly-elected Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli signs documents after he was sworn in as Nepal Prime Minister on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Russia and China begin joint naval drills

BEIJING, 15 JULY

China and Russia's naval forces on Sunday kicked off a joint exercise at a military port in southern China on Sunday, official news agency Xinhua reported, days after NATO allies called Beijing a "decisive enabler" of the war in Ukraine.

The Chinese defense ministry said in a brief statement forces from both sides recently patrolled the western and northern Pacific Ocean and that the operation had nothing to do with international and regional situations and didn't target any third party.

The exercise, which began in Guangdong province on Sunday and is expected to last until mid-July, aimed to demonstrate the capabilities of the navies in addressing security threats and preserving peace and stability globally and regionally, state broadcaster CCTV reported Saturday, adding it would include anti-missile exercises, sea strikes and air defense.

- The exercise, which began in Guangdong province on Sunday and is expected to last until mid-July, aimed to demonstrate the capabilities of the navies

The sternly worded final communiqué, approved by the 32 NATO members at their summit in Washington, made clear that China is becoming a focus of the military alliance, calling Beijing a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine. *—PTI*

NINE DIE AFTER BOMB EXPLODES IN SOMALIA

MOGADISHU, 15 JULY

Nine people were killed after a car bomb exploded outside a popular café packed with football fans in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

The bomb went off on Sunday night as patrons at Top Coffee were watching the Euro 2024 football final between Spain and England.

Jihadist group al-Shabab said it carried out the attack.

The restaurant had been full, with some on the pavement outside as the bomb went off, sending people scrambling for safety, witnesses said. The explosion also destroyed a number of cars and damaged several buildings. Al-Shabab, part of the al-Qaeda group, reportedly said it was targeting a place where government workers meet at night. *—BBC News*

'RUSSIA SHOULD SAY SORRY'

Father seeks justice in 10-yr-old MH17 crash

HILVERSUM, 15 JULY

Quinn Schansman dreamed of becoming the youngest-ever CEO of an American company. A decade ago, he had just finished the first year of an international business degree in Amsterdam as a step toward that lofty goal.

But the 18-year-old dual Dutch American citizen's future — whatever it may have held — was cruelly cut short when he was one of the 298 people killed as a Soviet-era Buk surface-to-air rocket, launched from territory in eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian rebels, destroyed Malaysia Airlines flight 17.

On Wednesday, Quinn's father, Thomas Schansman, will read out his name and those of other victims during a commemoration marking 10 years since the tragedy at a monument near Schiphol, the airport flight MH17 left on its way to Kuala Lumpur on 17 July, 2014. An international investigation concluded that the Buk missile system belonged to the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade and that it was driven into Ukraine from a Russian military base near the city of Kursk and returned there after the plane was shot down.

In 2022, after a trial that lasted more than two years, a Dutch court convicted two Russians and a pro-Russian Ukrainian in absentia of murder for their roles in transporting the missile.

People killed in the crash were citizens of the Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand, Vietnam, Israel, Italy, Romania, the United States and South Africa.

—BBC News

The investigation concluded that the Buk missile system which hit the aircraft belonged to the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigad **PHOTO: BRITTANICA**

British zoologist gets 249 years for raping 60 dogs

DARWIN, 16 JULY

A British zoologist who raped, tortured and killed dogs was sentenced to 249 years in prison in Australia.

Britton admitted 60 charges which included animal abuse and bestialities which were carried out on the inside a shipping container last year

Sick footage which he had taken himself showed him raping, torturing and killing dogs. He now faces a life sentence of up to 249 years in Australia, as court proceedings were adjourned again today to the fury of animal rights activists.

Last year Britton, a senior researcher at Charles Darwin University, was charged with eight counts of bestiality, four counts of possessing and transmitting child abuse material, and 37 counts of aggravated animal cruelty.

- He now faces a life sentence of up to 249 years in Australia, as court proceedings were adjourned again today to the fury of animal rights activists

LeedsLive reports Britton's representatives said he had been affected by "paraphilia" during the two-year period in which the crimes took place. This is a condition where a person experiences intense sexual fantasies about objects, places or situations which are considered atypical.

As this condition was discussed in court, Britton could be seen wiping away a tear as a security guard handed him tissues.

Courtesy, The Mirror

PHOTO: PTI

Gold rises ₹50 to ₹75,150; silver slumps ₹500

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Gold prices rose Rs 50 to Rs 75,150 per 10 grams in the local market on Monday amid fresh buying by jewellers even as the precious metal rates fall in the overseas markets. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal prices closed at Rs 75,100 per 10 grams on Saturday. Gold prices saw a rise in domestic demand. However, a weak trend in the global markets capped the gains, the association said. Additionally, silver prices slumped Rs 500 to Rs 94,000 per kg. It had settled at Rs 94,500 per kg in the previous session. Globally, spot gold was trading at USD 2,407.92 per ounce, down by USD 3.51 per ounce. In addition, silver was also down at USD 30.69 per ounce. *—PTI*

Northern Arc Capital gets Sebi's nod to float IPO

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

Non-bank financial institution Northern Arc Capital Ltd has received Sebi's approval to raise funds through an initial share sale, an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday. The proposed Initial Public Offer (IPO) is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 2.1 crore equity shares by investor shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed with Sebi. Those offering shares through the OFS include Leapfrog Financial Inclusion India (II) Ltd, Accion Africa-Asia Investment Company, Augusta Investments II Pte Ltd, Eight Roads Investments Mauritius II Ltd, Dvara Trust and IIFL Special Opportunities Fund. *—PTI*

BCD Group gets ₹184 cr order for housing project

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Construction firm BCD Group has bagged Rs 184 crore worth of work order in Bengaluru to construct a residential project in Bengaluru. In a statement on Monday, BCD Group said it has bagged construction work for a residential project from Ramsons Trendsquares in Bengaluru. The housing project 'Ramsons Trendsqure East Park Residences' has a 1.5 million square feet area. The project will need close to 700 skilled workers during the peak operations. BCD Group, established in 1952, is one of the leading players in the Indian construction and design industry. Headquartered in Bengaluru, BCD Group is present across 7 cities in India, and involved in the development of diverse projects, including group housings, commercial complexes, shopping malls, hotels, hospitals, steel plants, and stadiums. *—PTI*

Ashok Leyland bags 2,104 bus order from MSRTC

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland Ltd on Monday said it has bagged an order for 2,104 fully-built buses from Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation. It is the single largest fully built bus order from the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) and these 'Viking' passenger buses will be manufactured at Ashok Leyland's exclusive bus body plants, the company said in a statement. The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the order. Ashok Leyland Managing Director & CEO Shenu Agarwal said the latest order is a continuation of company's long-standing partnership with MSRTC. *—PTI*

SBI RAISES LENDING RATES BY 5 TO 10 BASIC POINTS

Change in SBI's MCLR is likely to influence other banks

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday announced an increase in its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 5-10 basis points for most tenors.

The MCLR represents the minimum rate at which a bank can lend money and is a crucial factor in determining loan interest rates. This adjustment by SBI is significant as it reflects changes in the cost of funds and overall market conditions.

SBI has revised the lending rates for tenors exceeding one night. Specifically, the lending rate for one month has been adjusted from 8.30 percent to 8.35 percent.

For three months, rate has increased from 8.30% to 8.40% PHOTO: ANI

For three months, the rate has increased from 8.30 percent to 8.40 percent. The six-month lending rate has been revised to 8.75 percent, while the one-year rate is now set at 8.85 percent.

Notably, the lending rate for three years tenor has seen an increment of 5 basis points, bringing it to 9 percent.

These changes in lending rates are part of the bank's routine review and adjustment of interest rates based on its marginal cost of funds. The increase indicates a slight rise in the bank's cost of borrowing and operational expenses, which is subsequently passed on to borrowers.

The adjustment in SBI's MCLR is likely to influence other banks as well. Following SBI's lead, other banks may also increase their lending rates to maintain competitive parity and reflect their own cost structures. This cascading effect can impact borrowers across the banking sector, leading to higher interest rates on various types of loans,

Imports from B'desh are aggravating jute sector crisis

KOLKATA, 15 JULY

A body of jute suppliers have written to Union Minister Giriraj Singh, alleging that raw material imports from Bangladesh, either directly by mills or through third parties, have adversely impacted the industry and farmers.

In a letter to the textile minister, the Jute Balers' Association has raised concerns over the "unregulated import of raw jute" from the neighbouring country and "low orders" for mills have led to a severe payment crisis for domestic raw jute suppliers.

Indian Jute Mills Association has also raised concerns over the issue and sought intervention from the central and state governments to tide over the crisis.

The balers' association, which has been serving the sector for over 115 years, outlined the critical issues threatening the industry's survival.

There is a bar on use of imported jute in bags PHOTO: FREEPIK

- Indian Jute Mills Association has also raised concerns over the issue and sought intervention to tide over the crisis

Prices of the golden fibre fell below Rs 5,000 per quintal, while the minimum support price (MSP) is Rs 5,335 per quintal for the 2024-25 season, he said.

There has been a bar on the use of imported jute in making bags for food grain packaging but the "influx of cheaper and low-grade jute from Bangladesh has exacerbated the crisis", an industry stakeholder said.

The association called for a rigorous crackdown on illegal jute imports and a reaffirmation of commitment to lawful practices. *—PTI*

SETS NEW RECORD

Mcap of BSE firms hit new all-time high of ₹455L cr

BSE Sensex climbed 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 80,664.86 PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit a new all-time high of Rs 455 lakh crore on Monday, helped by a record-breaking rally in equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 145.52 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 80,664.86. During the day, it rallied 343.2 points or 0.42 per cent to 80,862.54.

Thanks to the bull run in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged to a lifetime high of Rs 4,55,06,566.48 crore (USD 5.45 trillion).

In two days of market rally, investors' wealth jumped Rs 3.85 lakh crore.

"The Indian market continues to experience optimism driven by positive expectations from the upcoming Union Budget, robust FII inflows, and better-than-expected results from the IT sector. Additionally, the initial results from PSU banks have triggered a strong rally in the PSU index," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among Sensex components, State Bank of India, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Maruti and ITC were the biggest winners.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.95 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.21 per cent.

Among the indices, oil & gas rallied 2.32 per cent, energy (1.61 per cent), realty (1.40 per cent), utilities (1.09 per cent) and healthcare (1 per cent).

Industrials, IT, teck and capital goods were the laggards. *—ANI*

EV RIDE-HAILING FIRM BLUSMART RAISES $24M

MUMBAI, 15 JULY

EV ride-hailing services and charging infrastructure network operator BluSmart on Monday said it has raised USD 24 million (Rs 200 crore) capital in a funding round.

The pre-Series B funding round saw participation from existing investors like responsAbility Investments AG as well as new investors such as Sumant Sinha, Chairman and CEO of ReNew, and MS Dhoni Family Office.

The funds will support BluSmart in expanding its operations and building EV charging infrastructure and assets in mega Indian cities, the company said.

"Our latest fundraise of USD 24 million is an important step in our journey to scale the e-mobility fleet and EV charging infrastructure," BluSmart co-founder Punit Goyal said.

The company is building an integrated energy-infrastructure, mobility and technology company to take full advantage of the EV revolution, he added.

"Investing in BluSmart's sustainable business model is not just about supporting a company; it's about being part of a movement that shapes the future of mobility," Dhoni, veteran cricketer, said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

SURVEY FINDS 89% PEOPLE FACE CALL DROPS

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Around 89 per cent of people surveyed have experienced call drops in the last three months and nine in 10 have used Wi-Fi networks to make calls through calling and messaging apps, online survey firm Localcircles said on Monday.

The survey conducted between March and June claims to have received a total of 32,000 responses across different questions from 362 districts. The number of responses differed from question to question.

"89 per cent of subscribers surveyed face call connection and drop issues, Out of this 89 per cent, 38 per cent of them face it with over 20 per cent of their calls," the survey said.

In response to the question on call drop experience, 17 per cent indicated they face issues in more than half of their total phone calls while 21 per cent said that 20-50 per cent of their calls get dropped or disconnected.

Mobile subscribers have increased the use of OTT apps for making Wi-Fi calls in the last two years as they face call connectivity and drop issues with their mobile network, the survey said. *—PTI*

'NO CASE FOR REVIEW'

Hindenburg vs Adani: SC junks review petition

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Supreme Court has dismissed a plea seeking review of its 3 January verdict by which it refused to transfer the probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by Adani Group to a special investigation team or CBI.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra dismissed the review plea filed by one of the PIL petitioners, Anamika Jaiswal, against the 3 January verdict.

"Having perused the review petition, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petition is, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order of 5 May.

The review petition was considered by the judges in chamber.

In a significant win for the Adani Group, the top court, on January 3, declined to order a CBI or SIT probe. In its judgment, the apex court had said market regulator SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" into the allegations and its conduct "inspires confidence".

PHOTO: ANI

In its verdict, the apex court noted that SEBI has completed its investigation in 22 out of the 24 matters where allegations had been levelled against the Adani Group.

Adani Group stocks suffered a bloodbath on the bourses after Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including those about fraudulent transactions and share-price manipulation, against it.

Adani Group had dismissed the charges as lies, asserting it complies with all laws and disclosure requirements. *—PTI*

Imports rose by about 5 per cent to USD 56.18 billion PHOTO: UNSPLASH

India's exports rise 2.56 per cent to $35.2B

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

India's merchandise exports in June increased 2.56 per cent to USD 35.2 billion from USD 34.32 billion in the year-ago month, according to government data released on Monday.

Imports rose by about 5 per cent to USD 56.18 billion in June against USD 53.51 billion a year ago.

The trade deficit, or the gap between imports and exports, during the month under review stood at USD 20.98 billion.

Briefing media on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said going by the current trend, the country's total exports of goods and services may cross USD 800 billion this fiscal.

During the first quarter of 2024-25, the exports of goods and services stood at about USD 200 billion, he added.

India's merchandise exports rose by 9.1 per cent to USD 38.13 billion in May, even as the trade deficit widened to a seven-month high of USD 23.78 billion.

Exports during April-June this fiscal increased 5.84 per cent to USD 109.96 billion, and imports grew 7.6 per cent to USD 172.23 billion. *—PTI*

Hindustan Zinc gives ₹13K cr to exchequer

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Vedanta group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) on Monday said it has contributed Rs 13,195 crore to the exchequer in the last financial year, representing about 46 per cent of its total revnues.

In FY 2023-24, Hindustan Zinc's total contribution to the exchequer stood at Rs 13,195 crores, the Vedanta group firm said in a regulatory filing. With this, HZL's cumulative contribution to the exchequer over the past five years stood at Rs 77,803 crore.

Over the past five years, that company has consistently contributed an average of approximately Rs 3,250 crore per year to Rajasthan in the form of royalties, contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), and other levies.

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Over the past five years, Hindustan Zinc has consistently contributed an average of approximately Rs 3,250 crore annually to the state of Rajasthan in the form of royalties, contributions to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), and other levies. In the past five years, the company said it has paid Rs 16,350 crore in government royalties, Rs 10,100 crore as corporate income tax, Rs 18,008 crore as corporate dividend and Rs 26,384 crore as indirect taxes.

Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Vedanta Group company, is the world's second-largest integrated zinc producer and the third-largest silver producer. The company's commitment to responsible mining practices and its significant contributions to the exchequer solidify its role as a key contributor. *—PTI*

TO BOOST REVENUE

Zomato & Swiggy hike platform fees

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Food-delivery firm Zomato has hiked the platform fee to Rs 6 from Rs 5 per order in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Its rival Swiggy, which had also increased the platform fee in select cities on Sunday, reverted to charging Rs 5 per order on Monday in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, as shown on its app.

When contacted to ascertain the reasons for the hike, both Zomato and Swiggy declined to comment.

The two companies had introduced platform fees last year, initially at Rs 2 per order, which has been increased gradually.

Zomato and Swiggy hike the platform fees to Rs 6 PHOTO: PTI

Platform fee is treated as one of the ways in which food-delivery platforms are trying to increase their profitability, with a duopoly in place as Zomato and Swiggy are the key players in the segment.

Initially introduced in Bengaluru and Delhi, this fee is distinct from delivery charges, GST, restaurant fees, and other expenses associated with orders. This fee applies universally to all food orders, irrespective of customer enrollment in loyalty programmes offered by both platforms. It directly contributes to the companies' revenue streams and cost management efforts.

Swiggy introduced a platform fee of Rs 2 in April 2023, leading Zomato to follow suit in August of the same year. *—PTI with agencies*

Zomato CEO joins billionaire club as firm's shares soar

New Delhi, 15 July

Deepinder Goyal, Zomato's Founder & CEO, has become a billionaire after a record rally in Zomato shares since last year. The stock has jumped over 300 per cent since the low of July 2023. The stock set a new record of Rs 230 on the BSE and gained as much as 2 per cent during the day, with its market cap surging past Rs 1.8 trillion. With this, Goyal, 41, has become India's richest professional manager with his networth surging past Rs 8,300 crore. Currently, Goyal has Rs 36.95 crore shares or 4.24 per cent stake in the company. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

COPA AMERICA: ARG BEAT COLOMBIA 1-0

Unfortunately, Lionel Messi exits with leg injury

Argentine players celebrate with the trophy after winning the final match between Argentina and Colombia at Copa America 2024 soccer tournament on Monday
PHOTO: X/ @ARGENTINA

MIAMI GARDENS, 15 JULY

After reclosing the gates, security began letting fans in slowly around 8:10 p.m., with the new kickoff time set for 9:15 pm, but the commotion did not stop. Fans again broke through the railings, so many filing in that security scanners rocked back and forth from the force.

Lionel Messi's night ended early during the Copa America final when he emotionally exited the field in the 64th minute with an apparent leg injury, and cameras showed him later on the bench with a badly swollen right ankle.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and chief public safety officer James Reyes released a statement during the game saying the county assigned more than 550 police officers to the stadium detail, plus other personnel from neighboring departments.

"We will work with stadium leadership to ensure that a full review of tonight's events takes place immediately to evaluate the full chain of events, in order to put in place needed protocols and policies for all future games," read the statement.

Fans wearing gear from both teams started running in multiple directions, some carrying children on their shoulders. Tickets were not being scanned and few police officers or stadium officials could be seen in the sea of people.

Some fans started climbing over fences to get in. Three police officers were seen placing handcuffs on a fan with a Colombia flag on a ramp that leads to the stadium's seats. A fan named Claudio, who traveled to the game from Mendoza in Argentina, spoke of not being able to breathe as police attempted to subdue the chaos. *—AP*

COPA AMERICA

Golden Boot
LAUTARO MARTINEZ
GOALS: 5

Golden Glove
EMILIANO MARTINEZ
CLEAN SHEETS 5

SPAIN BEAT ENGLAND 2-1 TO WIN EURO CUP

This is their record 4th European C'ship title

BARCELONA, 15 JULY

Spain arrived in Germany with no huge stars and no real expectations. Six weeks later, Luis de la Fuente's team heads home with a European Championship title to celebrate and reason to believe in a bright future.

The youthful spark of Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams combined perfectly with the veteran poise of Rodri and other mainstays who had yet to win a major trophy as Spain completed its superb Euro 2024 with a 2-1 win over England on Sunday.

Mikel Oyarzabal

The key was making Spain a more dynamic and versatile attacking team to end a decade of "tiki-taka" misfires. Spain won a record fourth European Championship title on Sunday after Mikel Oyarzabal's 87th-minute goal clinched a 2-1 victory over England, whose painful decades-long wait for a major trophy goes on.

Even though Williams later rolled out the platitudes of enjoying the moment and going forward step by step, the Athletic Bilbao winger couldn't help but look forward to the 2026 World Cup.

Spain won all seven games — with none going to penalties — and scored record 15 goals at a European Championship.

Passing the torch

Rodri was named the player of the tournament, even without playing the second half of the final due to a leg problem. The Manchester City midfielder is now Spain's leading candidate to finally win its first men's Ballon d'Or award since Luis Suárez did so back in 1960. Aitana Bonmatí and Alexia Putellas have won the women's Ballon d'Or award the past three years. *—AP*

EUFA EURO

Player of the tournament:
RODRI

Golden Glove:
MIKE MAIGNAN

Spain's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the final match between Spain and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin on Monday
PHOTO: X/@SEFUTBOL

Superunited Rapid & Blitz: Gukesh secures 7th place

ZAGREB, 15 JULY

D Gukesh finished on seventh spot, the best among Indians, while top seeded Fabiano Caruana clinched the Superunited Rapid and Blitz with a dominant effort here. Gukesh logged 14 points in the event, while the other Indian player in the fray Vidit Gujrathi finished ninth with 11 points. It turned out to be a fine performance by Caruana following his victory in the Superbet Classic here. Caruana scored a record 27 points in the tournament that had nine rounds in rapid and 18 in Blitz and the American was clearly dominant as the nearest rivals finished as many as four points behind. The American also added $40000 to his kitty and equalled the 27-points record set by Norwegian World number one Magnus Carlsen in 2019. *—PTI*

David Warner may miss Champions Trophy: Bailey

SYDNEY, 15 JULY

Australian national selector George Bailey has said that the national team plans to move on from the recently-retired David Warner despite the southpaw's desire to be considered for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year. The 37-year-old Warner retired from international cricket following the T20 World Cup in the Americas last month, where the Aussies failed to progress beyond the Super 8 stage. However, he had insisted that he will keep the door open for a return for the Champions Trophy, a One-Day International format ICC event. Warner had a decent run during the T20 World Cup, finishing as the side's second-highest run-scorer, after Travis Head. *—PTI*

India's Satwiksairaj Ranireddy and Chirag Shetty in action during the men's doubles final match on Monday
PHOTO: ANI

Satwik-Chirag get easy draw for Paris

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have received a favourable draw for the Paris Olympics beginning July 26.

Satwik, 23, and Chirag, 27, who claimed the Thomas Cup gold and Commonwealth Games gold in 2022, have been seeded third.

The former world number one pair, considered one of the favourites for the gold medal, has been clubbed in group C where Indonesia's world number six combination of Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto will be their toughest opponent.

Satwik and Chirag, who also won the 2023 Asia Championships title before securing the French Open Super 750 and Thailand Open Super 500 titles besides reaching two more finals in 2024, also will have to compete with world No. 31 German combination of Mark Lamsfuss and Marvin Seidel and world No. 43 Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar of France in the group.

The sport's World governing body had to postpone the draw after CAS ordered BWF to recommend to the International Olympic Committee that Corvée-Labar be included in the Olympic Games. *—PTI*

'TRANSITION REQUIRED IN INDIAN CRICKET'

NEW DELHI, 15 JULY

Outgoing batting coach Vikram Rathour knows that a tough transition period awaits India in the near future but having worked with the available talent pool, he feels the side is well-equipped to handle the phase provided it unfolds in a "controlled and gradual manner".

While Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will still play ODIs and Tests for now, India will have to grapple with the transition phase in another couple of years when they move towards the last phase of their respective careers?

"It is never going to be easy to replace people of Rohit and Virat's calibre," Rathour, also a former selector, told PTI in an exclusive interview. "The recently-concluded series against Zimbabwe (on Sunday) gave us some glimpse into how the T20 team will look like in future. But we still have a few years in Test and ODI cricket to get to that point," said. Having served as both national selector and one of the coaches of the senior team, Rathour has an inside view of Indian cricket's talent pool and he finds it reassuring. *—PTI*

Will play Tests and ODIs, says Rohit

DALLAS, 15 JULY

India captain Rohit Sharma says he will continue to play Test and ODI cricket "at least for a while" after ending his T20 international career with a World Cup win in June.

Rohit has been on a break since the title win in the West Indies and is set to miss the limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka later this month, which includes three ODIs. "I just said it. I don't look that far ahead. So clearly, you will be seeing me play at least for a while," the 37-year-old said at an event here on Sunday night. His statement was reiteration of a position he made clear after announcing his T20 retirement after the final in the West Indies in which India defeated South Africa by seven runs. Earlier this month, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had confirmed that Rohit will captain India in the ongoing World Test Championship cycle and the Champions Trophy next year in February-March. *—PTI*

DANCE AT WIMBLEDON

Men's Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz dances with Women's champion Barbora Krejcikova in London on Monday
PHOTO: X/@WIMBLEDON

Jr hockey: Odisha women, J'khand men record wins

KOLKATA, 15 JULY

Odisha women's and Jharkhand men's teams recorded wins in their respective matches of the Hockey India Junior East Zone Championship here on Monday.

Odisha women crushed Manipur Hockey 5-0, riding on goals from Priyanka Kujur (20), captain Amisha Eka (30, 36), Anushka Bhawre (39) and Drupati Naik (55).

Assam Hockey women defeated Hockey Bihar 4-0 with goal from Ashmita Tigga (17), Sumitra Swargiari (23), Ritu Bawri (29) and Reshma Jagat (60), while Hockey Jharkhand got the better of Hockey Bengal 4-1.

For the winners, Barwa Purnima (4), Roshni Aind (45), Pinki Kumari (49) and Mundu Sukarmani (51) were on target, while Shanti Horo (17) netted one for Bengal. In the men's section, Jharkhand produced a ruthless show to hammer Assam Hockey 13-1 as Jolen Topno netted five times in the 13th, 17th, 26th, 48th and 59th minute.

Manipur Hockey opened the scoring through Ricky Tonjam (14), followed by goals from Khangembam Somikant Singh (27) and skipper Silheiba Lisham (53).

Odisha defeated Bengal 7-2. Odisha built a solid lead through goals from Abhisek Topno (24), Deepak Pradhan (26, 47, 51), Karan Lakra (27, 59) and Deonath Nanwar (37). *—PTI*

AFTER EURO 2024

Müller retires from int'l football

MUNICH, 15 JULY

- The 34-year-old Bayern Munich striker played 131 times for his country, scoring 45 goals.

Germany forward Thomas Müller announced his retirement from international soccer on Monday after a 14-year career that included the 2014 World Cup title.

The 34-year-old Bayern Munich striker played 131 times for his country, scoring 45 goals. "It always made me very proud to play for my country. We celebrated together and sometimes shed a tear together," he said in a video posted on YouTube. "I would like to say thank you to all the fans and my Germany teammates for their support over the years. Take the enthusiasm and joy of this year's Euros with you."

Müller's final appearance for Germany was as a substitute in the host nation's quarterfinal loss to eventual Euro 2024 winner Spain. Müller's international debut came in 2010 in a 1-0 loss to Argentina. He played in four World Cups and four European Championships.

Fellow veteran Tony Kroos retired from all soccer after Euro 2024, leaving Germany without two of its most experienced players going forward. *—AP*

GOALS: 45

MATCHES PLAYED: 131

GOLDEN BOOT WINNER: 2010 tournament in South Africa